

America," both in civil litigation and maritime law. In 1990, he was selected as one of 500 lawyers in the world to join the prestigious International Academy of Trial Lawyers, where he sits on the Board of Directors of the Academy and the Academy's Foundation. Among other distinctions, Skip is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. California State University Long Beach named him "The Distinguished Alumnus" of the Business School in 1991.

Congratulations, Skip.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL
FOR NELSON MANDELA

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of you and a bipartisan group of our colleagues, to introduce a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal, our nation's highest civilian honor, to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa.

Nelson Mandela has dedicated his entire life to the abolition of apartheid and creation of democracy in his beloved country, South Africa. His story is familiar to us all; his impact on Members of this body and citizens of our nation—immense. This will be his final full year in office. We therefore thought that honoring him might be appropriate.

For the three decades that he was in prison, Nelson Mandela never once gave up on the struggle to free South Africans from their racist oppressors. He sacrificed his life, his youth. His daughter, Zindzi, often said that she "grew up without a father, who, when he returned, became the father of a nation." There is no doubt that he became and remains South Africa's best known and most beloved hero, a sentiment that exists here in the United States.

As President of South Africa, Mandela's dedication to his people did not cease once the apartheid laws were lifted. He refocused his efforts toward his nation's reconciliation by creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This Commission has been a fair, no-nonsense forum to expose an uncomfortable past in a constructive—not divisive—way.

When he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with then-President FW de Klerk in 1993, he did so as a tribute to all people around the world who have worked for peace and stood against racism. This of course includes former South African Nobel Peace Laureates Chief Albert Luthuli and Bishop Desmond Tutu, and so many others, including some of our colleagues and fellow citizens.

Here in the United States, I think especially of our colleague, RON DELLUMS, who retires at the end of this week, as someone who fought so hard against apartheid, and worked to convince members of this body to impose sanctions on the South African government, which eventually led the events that culminated with apartheid's demise.

Our bill also specifically recognizes American student Amy Biehl, and her parents, Peter and Linda Biehl. Amy lost her life in the struggle against apartheid when she was mur-

dered by the hands of an angry, racially-charged mob, in the Guguletu township outside Cape Town. Amy was a bright young woman, full of potential. She had traveled to South Africa to help register African women to vote. Peter and Linda are extraordinary people. When they confronted Amy's murderers last year, they showed an element of forgiveness and compassion rarely seen on this earth. They are an example to us all.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would especially like to express my thanks for your cosponsorship and the other Members who have joined us as original cosponsors—Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BERREUTER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. HALL of Ohio. I hope, with your help, we can assemble an appropriate number of cosponsors to move this bipartisan bill through the House and Senate—then welcome President Mandela to the United States this year and offer him this gift to recognize our immense appreciation for all he has done to rid the world of the scourge of racism.

HONORING DAVID SAMSON

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 1997, I had the pleasure of honoring David Samson at a meeting of the Concerned Citizens of Northeast Dade. Below is the text of my speech:

TRIBUTE TO DAVID SAMSON

Today I rise to honor a man who has proven himself to be a true leader in one of the most civic and politically involved communities in these United States. I am speaking of The Honorable David Samson, Mayor of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida. When Mr. Samson moved to Florida 25 years ago, he planned to retire after a successful business career in Chicago. But for a man like Dave Samson, retirement didn't come easily. He got involved in his community, became the president of his condominium, and has held that office for the past 23 years. I believe he is the longest standing condominium president in Florida's history. Dave also has been Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Metro-Dade Police Department Station 6 for the past eight years. To his credit, he has raised thousand of dollars to assist the police department and the families of fallen police officers.

For the past 13 years, Dave has been President of one of the most active and influential civic groups in all of Miami-Dade County, Concerned Citizens of Northeast Dade. During his tenure, Dave has improved the quality of life for residents, most of who are in their golden years. He created the Vial of Life Program for seniors in emergency situations, created programs to educate residents on hurricane preparedness, improved police protection, street lighting, and urged the formation of a much needed fire rescue unit on the beach. Under Dave's leadership, this group has also been responsible for tremendous support in "getting out the vote" initiatives for important issues and candidates they felt were worthy of their support. I have been a beneficiary of this support and feel that we have an excellent partnership work-

ing on issues that greatly affect this community such as beach renourishment and seniors' right related to adult-only condominiums. This outstanding organization is honoring Dave at a most-deserved affair to pay tribute to him as the outgoing president. I am proud to be a part of this tribute.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there's still more. At the ripe young age of 80, Dave Samson led the fight to incorporate his beautiful area of Sunny Isles Beach and befittingly became its first mayor. This doesn't surprise those of us who know Dave personally. He is truly a dynamo and a man filled with heart. Perhaps the person who knows best is Dave's beautiful wife of 58 years, Marion. They say behind every great man is a strong woman. To have endured a lifetime with a man whose career that just won't quit, I believe Marion deserves a medal.

On behalf of Emilie and myself, I congratulate Dave on his many years of dedicated service to Concerned Citizens of Northeast Dade and to the entire community who has benefited from all his tireless efforts on their behalf.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. JACK ALLAN BELL

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Jack Allan Bell of Columbus, who passed away on December 22nd. His life should serve as an example to all of us who seek to serve our families, communities, states, and nation.

A son of the South, Mr. Bell was born in Birmingham, Alabama, educated at Birmingham Southern College and the University of Alabama, and spent most of his life in Columbus, Georgia, where his widow still resides.

Mr. Bell demonstrated his patriotism at a young age, serving in combat during both World War II and the Korean Conflict. Even in times of peace, Mr. Bell served in extremely dangerous positions, including piloting RB-45 reconnaissance aircraft for the Strategic Air Command (SAC). These reconnaissance missions produced invaluable intelligence information regarding Soviet defenses but also resulted in the loss of two-thirds of Mr. Bell's squadron. And as an Air Force test pilot, Mr. Bell again proved his skill, gaining certification in over 40 different U.S. military aircraft.

Following his military service, Mr. Bell made countless contributions to the Columbus community as both a businessman and a benefactor. He served as president of the Gas Light Company of Columbus, the Southern Gas Association, the Muscogee Lions Club, and the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, as well as Director Emeritus for Sun Trust Bank.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Bell was instrumental in the growth and development of the Columbus Museum and the Springer Opera House. He also was a leading force in the Chattahoochee Council Boy Scouts.

Jack Bell is and will be greatly missed in Columbus. As a father, husband, patriot, and community leader, Mr. Bell will continue to serve as a shining example of the great impact that one individual can have on his community and on his country. I am honored to have had the opportunity to represent him.